

Clatworthy Parish Council Review of Year 2025-26

This year the Parish Council has continued lobbying for position within the proposed local boundary changes. Council members felt the best fit for Clatworthy's interests and concerns as a small rural farming area is with communities of similar size and interest, like the Brendon Hills parishes, rather than being subsumed into more urban areas such as Wiveliscombe and Wellington. Lobbying has been to that effect at meetings and in writing to the relevant authorities. It has recently been confirmed that Clatworthy is included in the Brendon Hills & Coast grouping.

The Parish Council has continued to lobby the Highways Authority for adequate maintenance of the roads, verges and refilling of grit bins. This has been done by attendance at the bi-monthly Exmoor and Dulverton Local Community Network (LCN) meetings and speaking directly to Highways Authorities staff.

Members of the public and council are thanked for reporting potholes and road obstructions/problems via the Highways website which has helped provide (generally) quicker repairs. Two main repairs are outstanding at the time of reporting. There is a temporary repair to the road edge at Watercombe, on the road to Huish Champflower, and work is awaited to replace road drainage outside Welches Cottage in Clatworthy. Both will be followed up by the council. In addition, the parish council purchased small bags of grit for local use in the winter outside people's homes.

The Parish Council has fulfilled its duties by responding to various consultations by other authorities requesting opinions. Liaison with the local Police Community Support Officer has led to Clatworthy being included in their routine attendance at the village hall for residents to discuss any relevant concerns.

Both the telephone box and the automatic heart defibrillator remain in good repair and working order. The defibrillator's readiness for use is checked and reported regularly to the national database. Thanks are given to Wiveliscombe First Responders for leading a training session in October attended by 11 people on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of the defibrillator.

Grants were given this year to support St Margaret's Somerset Hospice, Wivey Link, Wiveliscombe First Responders and Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.

The Parish Council reviewed two planning applications (Brown Lane and Syndercombe Lane) neither of which received objections.

An Emergency Plan has been developed by council members as part of the Somerset Prepared initiative aimed at keeping the Somerset population safe in emergencies, such as fire, flood, power outages and other disasters. A copy is available in the village hall.

The Parish Council thanked John Ward who stood down as a councillor and welcomed Gemma Forster who joined the council this year. The Parish Council met four times in the year. The agenda for each meeting is posted on the village noticeboard one week before each meeting in February, May, August and November. The meeting day is on a Monday.

The parish footpaths officer role remains vacant and is open to a new volunteer to help ensure footpaths and bridle paths remained usable with adequate signage. Interested individuals should contact Peter Moran for more information about the role.

Thanks are given to Ben Cowling for looking after the church bells.

The parish clerk has clear governance documents which, together with all meeting minutes and relevant documents, can be found and accessed online at www.clatworthy-parish.uk.

Sally Moran

Chair, Clatworthy Parish Council

Written: 17th May 2026